

Move It

Have you ever been involved in a "fender bender" and left your car in a traffic lane rather than moving it? This is a pretty common habit in Virginia. If you have a non-injury crash it's not necessary to wait for law enforcement before moving the vehicles involved. If the vehicles can be driven, move them to a safe location, then exchange the necessary information or contact law enforcement. It's not just a good thing to do, it's Virginia law!

When you leave your car on the road, you contribute to traffic back-ups, which can cause other crashes. So the next time you're involved in a non-injury crash and your vehicle can be moved – please MOVE IT!

What to do after a crash:

1. Check for injuries.

Make sure your passengers and those in the other vehicle(s) are okay. If anyone is injured or killed, contact law enforcement immediately. ***If no one is injured and you're blocking traffic, move your car out of the way first.*** Remember, most injuries can be avoided if everyone is buckled up.

2. Notify law enforcement.

You should notify law enforcement when there are injuries, when the cars cannot be moved, when one of the drivers appears to be intoxicated, when damage exceeds \$1,000, when one of the drivers has no insurance or when one of the drivers leaves the scene of the crash.

3. Warn oncoming traffic of the crash or hazard to prevent other crashes.

Some common warning practices are raising your hood and using flares. Common ways of letting motorists know you need assistance are tying a white handkerchief to your door, waving a red flag and using a flashlight at night. Turn on your emergency flashers and remain inside the vehicle. Remember, if you're waiting for assistance, be patient. Crossing a roadway or attempting to stop traffic can be dangerous, especially at night.

4. Exchange Information.

Give your name, address, phone number, license plate number, vehicle description, insurance information and driver's license number to anyone else involved in the crash. Get the same information from the others involved and the names, addresses and phone numbers of any witnesses. Below is a form with the information you need to collect.

NAME OF DRIVER

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER

LICENSE PLATE NUMBER

MAKE MODEL YEAR

INSURANCE COMPANY NAME

5. Collect Crash details.

Give exact description of crash location, including routes, streets, city, county and distance to nearest landmark (Exit number, mile marker, intersection, bridge, etc.)

Article II, Code of Virginia, Section 46.2-894.

Duty of driver to stop, etc., in event of accident involving injury or death or damage to attended property.—The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident in which a person is killed or injured or in which an attended vehicle or other attended property is damaged shall immediately stop as close to the scene of the accident as possible without obstructing traffic and report his name, address, driver's license number, and vehicle registration number forthwith to the State Police or local law-enforcement agency, to the person struck and injured if such person appears to be capable of understanding and retaining the information, or to the driver or some other occupant of the vehicle collided with or to the custodian of other damaged property.